



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 11 March 2015

Top Stories

- Six suspects were charged in Salt Lake City March 5 for their alleged roles in a loan modification scheme that defrauded over 10,000 individuals nationwide out of more than \$33 million. – *National Mortgage News* (See item [4](#))
- An Amtrak train crashed into a semi-truck on the tracks at the intersection of Highway 301 and North Carolina Highway 903 (N.C. 103) in Halifax March 9, derailing the train and leaving 55 passengers injured. – *WRAL 5 Raleigh* (See item [5](#))
- Two ships collided in the Houston Ship Channel near Morgan's Point in La Porte, Texas, and spilled an unknown amount of MTBE into the water prompting the closure of the channel in both directions March 9. – *KHOU 11 Houston* (See item [8](#))
- The Florida Department of Education Commissioner reported March 9 that the State's new online standardized test was the target of a cyber-attack March 5, causing issues with log-ins and prompting computer screens to turn white. – *Associated Press* (See item [14](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *March 9, Carlsbad Current-Argus* – (New Mexico) **\$38K of equipment taken from power plant substation.** Officials in Eddy County reported a power plant substation burglary on NM 31 where thieves stole about 4,000 feet of copper wire and several other tools worth an estimated \$38,835 after gaining access to the substation by cutting the lock.

Source: http://www.currentargus.com/carlsbad-news/ci_27676653/38k-equipment-taken-from-power-plant-substation

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

2. *March 10, Help Net Security* – (International) **Hacking Nest Thermostat.** TrapX Labs researchers proved vulnerability in the Nest Learning Thermostat that was first presented at the Black Hat 2014 conference by compromising the device within TrapX's Advanced Test Bed Facility, then providing real-world validation by compromising a device that was installed in a participant's home network. The researchers were able to use the device as an initial point of attack to gain access to the entire home network, allowing them to track users' Internet activity, access private credentials, and use the thermostat's data to determine whether or not anyone was at the home.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=18062>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Financial Services Sector

3. *March 10, Hudson County Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Former Kearny councilman pleads guilty in \$13M mortgage fraud scheme.** A former Kearny, New Jersey councilman pleaded guilty March 9 to his role in a \$13 million mortgage fraud scheme in which he and co-conspirators recruited straw buyers from 2006-2011 to purchase condominiums and creating \$4.7 million worth of mortgages based on false and fraudulent loan applications and closing documents.
Source: <http://www.nj.com/jjournal-news/index.ssf/2015/03/ex-kearny-councilman-pleads-gu.html>
4. *March 9, National Mortgage News* – (National) **Six charged in loan modification scheme.** Six suspects were charged in Salt Lake City March 5 for their supposed roles in a loan modification scheme that defrauded over 10,000 individuals nationwide out of more than \$33 million. Authorities allege the suspects created CC Brown Law LLC in 2009 to execute a largely telemarketing-based scheme to sell fake home loan modification services to distressed homeowners then kept the customers' money without performing the services.
Source: <http://www.nationalmortgagenews.com/news/distressed/six-charged-in-loan-modification-scheme-1046193-1.html>

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Transportation Systems Sector

5. *March 10, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **US 301 reopened after Amtrak crash in Halifax.** An Amtrak train crashed into a semi-truck stuck on the tracks at the intersection of Highway 301 and North Carolina Highway 903 (N.C. 103) in Halifax March 9, derailing the train and leaving 55 passengers injured. Highway 301 reopened March 10, 18 hours after closing due to the accident while N.C. 903 remained closed as crews worked to clear the debris and remove the electrical building being transported by the semi-truck.
Source: <http://www.wral.com/us-301-reopened-after-amtrak-crash-in-halifax/14503875/>
6. *March 10, New England Cable News* – (Maine) **4 killed in head-on crash in northern Maine.** Route 161 in Rainbow Cove in Township 16-Range 4, Maine, was closed for more than 7 hours March 9 due to a head-on collision that killed 4 people.
Source: <http://www.necn.com/news/new-england/4-Killed-in-Head-On-Crash-in-Maine-295623171.html>
7. *March 10, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Victim of I-75 crash identified.** Authorities reopened one southbound lane of Interstate 75 in Troy, Ohio, after closing all lanes for 2 hours March 9 after a vehicle overturned during a lane change and landed on a guardrail killing one person and leaving two others injured.

Source: <http://www.whio.com/news/news/local/wreck-on-i-75-south-in-miami-county-shuts-lanes/nkRsb/>

8. *March 9, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Leak contained after 2 vessels collide in Houston Ship Channel.** Two ships, a bulk carrier and a chemical tanker hauling 216,000 barrels of the gasoline additive MTBE, collided in the Houston Ship Channel near Morgan's Point in La Porte, Texas, and began spilling an unknown amount of MTBE into the water prompting the closure of the channel in both directions March 9. Authorities reported that the spill was contained while a shelter-in-place order remained in effect for about 300 residents.

Source: <http://www.kvue.com/story/news/state/2015/03/09/leak-contained-after-2-vessels-collide-in-houston-ship-channel/24678733/>

9. *March 9, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **Highway 74 reopens after rock slide.** Highway 74 in Bear Creek Canyon between Morrison and Kittredge in Jefferson County reopened March 9 after closing for approximately 15 hours following a rock slide March 8 that blocked the westbound lane and forced the highway to close.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/large-boulders-come-down-on-highway74-west-of-morrison>

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Food and Agriculture Sector

10. *March 10, RiverTowns.net* – (Wisconsin) **Two in custody after bomb scare in Roberts.** Police found a homemade explosive device and two suspects are in custody after investigating a suspicious vehicle located outside a Frito-Lay distribution center in Roberts, Wisconsin, prompting the relocation of Daisy Hill Early Learning's 4k classes to a nearby elementary school March 10. A secured perimeter was placed around several businesses and a portion of Highway 12 was closed for 2 hours while police investigated and the Marathon County bomb squad rendered the device safe.

Source: <http://www.rivertowns.net/news/region/3696442-update-traffic-re-opens-roberts-after-bomb-scare>

11. *March 9, WIBW 13 Topeka* – (Kansas) **Reser's issues statement on last weeks ammonia leak.** An Occupational Safety and Health Administration representative reported March 9 that the agency is investigating a reported ammonia leak at the Reser's Fine Foods plant in Topeka March 3. Reser's Fine Foods officials reported that the company also launched an investigation into the incident.

Source: <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/Resers-Issues-Statement-On-Last-Weeks-Ammonia-Leak-295637401.html>

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Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

12. *March 10, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Nearly 1.7K gallons of brine spill in Williams County.** The North Dakota Department of Health announced March 9 that a truck overflow caused about 1,680 gallons of brine to spill in Williams County and affect a nearby creek. Officials worked on a remediation plan and are investigating the impact of water quality.
Source: <http://www.kxnet.com/story/28348307/nearly-17k-gallons-of-brine-spill-in-williams-county>

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Healthcare and Public Health Sector

Nothing to report

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Government Facilities Sector

13. *March 10, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Gas leak at Monson's Quarry Hill school caused by ice falling from roof: Columbia Gas.** Classes were canceled at Quarry Hill Community School in Monson, Massachusetts, March 10 due to a gas leak caused by snow and ice falling from the roof which damaged a gas meter. Officials found a small amount of gas by the pool area of the building and repairs were expected to take several hours.
Source:
http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/03/gas_leak_at_quarry_hill_school.html
14. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Florida's top law agency investigating cyberattack on school standardized testing program.** The Florida Department of Education Commissioner reported March 9 that the State's new online standardized test was the target of a cyber-attack March 5, causing issues with log-ins and prompting computer screens to turn white. The vendor providing the test notified officials of the attack and authorities are continuing to investigate.
Source:
http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/185bca9f8e144d37a57f2aac2365594b/F_L--School-Testing
15. *March 9, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Willows High evacuated after package is mailed to school; police say school officials received threats.** Willows High School in California was evacuated and students were dismissed March 9 after a suspicious package addressed to the principal was delivered to the school prompting a police response. A bomb squad detonated the package which contained paperwork wrapped in a bag with rope, and classes were scheduled to resume March 10.

Source: <http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20150309/willows-high-evacuated-after-package-is-mailed-to-school-police-say-school-officials-received-threats>

16. *March 9, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Aurora school loses power after traffic crash.** A power outage caused by a transformer that was damaged in a traffic accident prompted the closure of Aurora Quest K-8 in Colorado March 9. Classes were expected to resume March 10.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/story/news/education/2015/03/09/aurora-quest-k-8-power-outage/24638465/>

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Emergency Services Sector

17. *March 9, KOKI 23 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Authorities searching for prison escapees.** Officials are searching for two inmates who escaped from the Mack Alford Correctional Center in Stringtown March 9 after personnel discovered a hole cut in a fence. Authorities warned that both suspects should be considered dangerous.

Source: <http://www.fox23.com/news/news/local/authorities-searching-prison-escapees/nkRPh/>

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Information Technology Sector

18. *March 10, Softpedia* – (International) **Exploit code published for Elasticsearch remote code execution flaw.** Security researchers at Xiphos Research created an exploit for a glitch in Elasticsearch versions earlier than 1.3.8 and 1.4.3 that allows server-side code execution by passing Groovy code in a search query and executing it in the sandbox. The glitch was patched in updates released February 11.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Exploit-Code-Published-for-Elasticsearch-Remote-Code-Execution-Flaw-475361.shtml>

19. *March 10, Threatpost* – (International) **Yahoo patches critical eCommerce, small business vulnerabilities.** Yahoo recently patched vulnerabilities discovered by security researchers that could have allowed attackers to gain complete access to any user-run eCommerce Web site hosted on Yahoo's eCommerce platform, Yahoo Small Business, including all site administration privileges, access to personally identifiable information, and control over prices of items in any Yahoo store.

Source: <https://threatpost.com/yahoo-patches-critical-ecommerce-small-business-vulnerabilities/111519>

20. *March 9, Softpedia* – (International) **Row Hammer DRAM bug exploited, unlocks access to physical memory.** Security researchers from Google's Project Zero leveraged a known vulnerability, dubbed Row Hammer, in some dynamic random-

access memory (DRAM) chips to identify one exploit that runs as a Native Client program and escalates privilege to call the host system SYSCALLs directly, and another that runs as a normal process on Linux and escalates privilege and allows access to data in the entire physical memory.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Row-Hammer-DRAM-Bug-Exploited-Unlocks-Access-to-Physical-Memory-475303.shtml>

21. *March 9, NBC News* – (International) **FBI investigates possible ISIS supporters' hack of Western sites.** The FBI is investigating after hackers claiming to be affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) placed black flags attributed with the group, the words “hacked by ISIS, we are everywhere,” an invalid Facebook address, and an Adobe Flash audio plugin that played a song in Arabic on several U.S. Web sites over the weekend of March 7. Some of the businesses targeted during the attack include a speedway in Ohio, a Goodwill store and digital agency in Missouri, a historic condominium complex in New York, a zoo in California, and restaurants in Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Ohio.

Source: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/hackers-claiming-be-isis-hit-montana-credit-union-n319696>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <http://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

22. *March 10, WPRO 99.7 FM Providence* – (Rhode Island) **5 alarm fire burns through factory building in Providence.** The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management advised Providence residents to limit outdoor activity March 10 due to poor air quality in the area caused by 5-alarm fire at a vacant factory building. Firefighters contained the blaze before it spread to adjacent businesses while the structure was severely damaged.

Source: <http://www.630wpro.com/2015/03/10/5-alarm-fire-burns-through-factory-building-in-providence/>

23. *March 9, New England Cable News* – (Massachusetts) **Roof collapse at shopping**

plaza under investigation. A shopping plaza in Holden, Massachusetts, was safely evacuated March 9 after the structure's roof partially collapsed under the weight of heavy snow. Stores located inside the shopping center remained closed while engineers inspected the building including a Dollar Tree store that suffered most of the damage caused by the collapse.

Source: <http://www.necn.com/news/new-england/Roof-Collapse-at-Shopping-Plaza-295674941.html>

24. *March 9, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Gas leak in suburban Boca plaza stopped.** The Sandalfoot Plaza shopping center in Boca Raton was evacuated for several hours March 9 after firefighters found gas leaking from several storm drains. The plaza was cleared to reopen after crews repaired a leaking 2-inch gas line.
Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/gas-leak-in-suburban-boca-prompts-evacuations-in-p/nkRhm/>

25. *March 9, WTOC 11 Savannah* – (Georgia) **22 people displaced after Thunderbolt apartment fire.** A March 9 fire at the River Crossing Apartments complex in Thunderbolt, Georgia, displaced 22 residents after the blaze that was sparked during repair work on a washing machine spread throughout the structure. A few firefighters were treated at the scene for unspecified injuries.
Source: <http://www.wtvm.com/story/28308645/22-people-displaced-after-thunderbolt-apartment-fire>

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Dams Sector

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